

Negative Cultural Resources Survey Report

Sweetwater River Phase III Trail Project
Project No. COFD-00251

Lead Agency:

County of San Diego
Department of Public Works
Contact: Ms. Esther Daigneault
5469 Kearny Villa Road, Suite 305
San Diego, CA 92123-1152
(858) 874-4043

Preparer:

Carmen Zepeda-Herman, M.A.
RECON
1927 Fifth Avenue
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 308-9333
RECON Number 4782A



Signature

Project Proponent:

County of San Diego
Department of Public Works

September 15, 2008

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA BASE INFORMATION

Author(s): Carmen Zepeda-Herman, M.A.
Archaeologist

Consulting firm: RECON
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RECON Number 4782A

Report date: September 15, 2008

Report title: Negative Cultural Resources Survey Report for the Sweetwater
River Phase III Trail Project

Type of study: Intensive pedestrian

Submitted to: County of San Diego
Department of Public Works
Contact: Ms. Esther Daigneault
5469 Kearny Villa Road, Suite 305
San Diego, CA 92123-1152

Contract number: Project No. COFD-00251

USGS quadrangle map: National City 7.5-minute, 1967 (photorevised 1975); La Nacion
Land Grant

Other locational data: Sweetwater County Park, south of the Sweetwater River, east of
Interstate-805 between Plaza Bonita Road and Willow Street,
County of San Diego

Acreage: 8.83 acres

New sites: None

Updated sites: None

Keywords: Negative results, impacted, Sweetwater River

RE: Cultural Resources – Negative Findings

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A Company of Specialists

September 15, 2008

Ms. Esther Daigneault
County of San Diego
Department of Public Works
5469 Kearny Villa Road, Suite 305
San Diego, CA 92123-1125

Reference: Negative Cultural Resources Survey for the Sweetwater River Phase III Trails Project
(RECON Number 4782A)

Dear Ms. Daigneault:

This letter report provides the methods and results used for the cultural resource survey for the Sweetwater River Phase III Trails project.

PROJECT LOCATION

County:	San Diego
USGS 7.5' Quadrangle:	National City, 1967 (photorevised 1975), La Nacion Land Grant
Thomas Bros. Map:	Page 1310, Grid E5, E4, F4, and F3
Address:	Sweetwater County Park, south of the Sweetwater River, east of Interstate-805 between Plaza Bonita Road and Willow Street
Assessors Parcel Nos.:	570-170-45, 570-170-51, 570-180-49, 570-180-50, 591-200-10, 591-230-02, 591-240-39, 592-001-00, 592-010-22, 592-020-01, 592-020-05, 592-030-54
Elevation:	40-60 feet AMSL
Survey Type:	Intensive pedestrian
Date of Survey:	August 21, 2008
Field Crew:	Carmen Zepeda-Herman and Nicole Turner

DESCRIPTION

The proposed project is a multi-use trail (pedestrian, equestrian, and bicycle) approximately one mile in length that will be part of the planned trail system extending east from Interstate 805 to a loop trail around the Sweetwater Reservoir. The current trail project is located within the Sweetwater Valley Regional Park (SVRP) in the unincorporated communities of Bonita and Sunnyside in San Diego County (Attachment 1: Figure 1). The site is shown on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) National City quadrangle, La Nacion Land grant (Attachment1: Figure 2).

The proposed trail begins at the Willow Street Bridge and continues west to terminate approximately 0.3 mile east of the SVRP western staging area, along the Sweetwater River corridor. The proposed project will establish trails along existing disturbed, non-designated trails and roadways wherever feasible and have a trail tread of native soil. In general, the trail will be 10

feet wide within a 20 foot trail easement, have a minimum horizontal clearance of two feet and vertical clearance of ten feet, and will be improved and maintained in accordance with the County of San Diego Trail Design Guidelines under the Community Trails Master Plan. The width of the trail may be reduced to four feet in areas adjacent to sensitive biological habitat including wetland habitats (i.e. areas adjacent to the Sweetwater River) to minimize impacts. A bridge will be constructed to replace an existing foot-bridge as part of the project to allow for users to cross the Sweetwater River.

Trail markers, intermediate markers, and lodge pole fencing will be used where necessary to encourage users to stay on the trails and to direct users to avoid sensitive biological resources. Trail markers will be placed at approximately one-quarter-mile increments along the route. Trail markers shall be brown, flexible reinforced composite-fiberglass. The markers shall be approximately 72 inches high, three-and-three-quarter inches wide, one-eighth inch thick, and weigh approximately two-and-one-half pounds.

This portion of the SVRP contains the County's Sweetwater Mitigation Bank. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) was signed in July 1998 to establish a mitigation bank to enable the County to mitigate for impacts to jurisdictional resources incurred as part of County projects. The MOA allows for establishment of trails within the boundaries of the mitigation bank (Section II.12.b).

A cultural resources survey for the Sweetwater Phase III Trail project was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the County of San Diego and the California Environmental Quality Act to identify any impacts to significant cultural resources. The goal of the cultural resources survey was to locate any new cultural resources within the project area.

RECON reviewed archival information and performed a pedestrian survey along the existing trail (Attachment 1: Figure 3). Prior to the field investigation, RECON reviewed the record search from the California Historical Resources Information System South Coastal Information Center at San Diego State University provided by the County (Attachment 2). Review of the record search revealed that the project area has been investigated in the past. There are 13 prehistoric sites, one prehistoric isolate, one historic house, one historic cemetery, and 33 historic addresses within a one-mile radius. None of these cultural resources were in or adjacent to the project trail. Historic maps indicate that a north-south road crossed over the Sweetwater River near the western end of the project area in 1930. This road no longer exists.

The field investigation was conducted on August 21 by County-approved archaeologist Carmen Zepeda-Herman, M.A and Nicole Turner. Because the proposed trail and easement is only 20 feet (approximately six meters), one transect was conducted along the center of the trail. Ground visibility was excellent within the trail and poor to fair outside the trail because of the vegetation surrounding the existing trail. An opportunistic survey approach was used to access areas with fair ground visibility. Soils consisted of tan sandy silt and sand. Photographs were taken to document the existing conditions (Attachment 3: Photographs).

No cultural resources were noted along the existing trail. The trail appears to be well used. The majority of the areas immediately outside the dirt path are covered in dense native and non-native vegetation (Photograph 1). Small culverts were noted at two locations. Road gravel and some modern trash, including concrete pieces and an abandoned vehicle, were noted (Photograph 2).

A bridge exists near the center of the trail length. It is a 30-inch-wide metal deck-truss bridge with wooden horizontal planks on the deck (Photograph 3). It consists of three parts: the horizontal part is nine feet 11 inches long and the two ramp parts on either side are each 12 feet eight inches long. The bridge is of an indeterminate age and has an unknown builder (Zepeda-Herman 2008). There were no features that would indicate an age of over 50 years and was therefore not considered a cultural resource and not recorded as such.

Ms. Esther Daigneault
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In conclusion, the cultural survey and record search did not identify any cultural resources within the project area. Existing conditions indicate the trail has been impacted in the past. Because of the trail's location adjacent to the Sweetwater River and the potential for buried cultural resources is high, the proposed project may have a significant impact on cultural resources. Construction monitoring is recommended as a mitigation measure during any ground disturbing activities, such as grubbing and grading.

Thank you for the opportunity to work on this project. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carmen Zepeda-Herman".

Carmen Zepeda-Herman, M.A.
Archaeologist

CZH:sjg

Att/cc: Mr. David Caterino, South Coastal Information Center

Attachments

1: Figures; 2: Record Search Letter; 3: Photographs

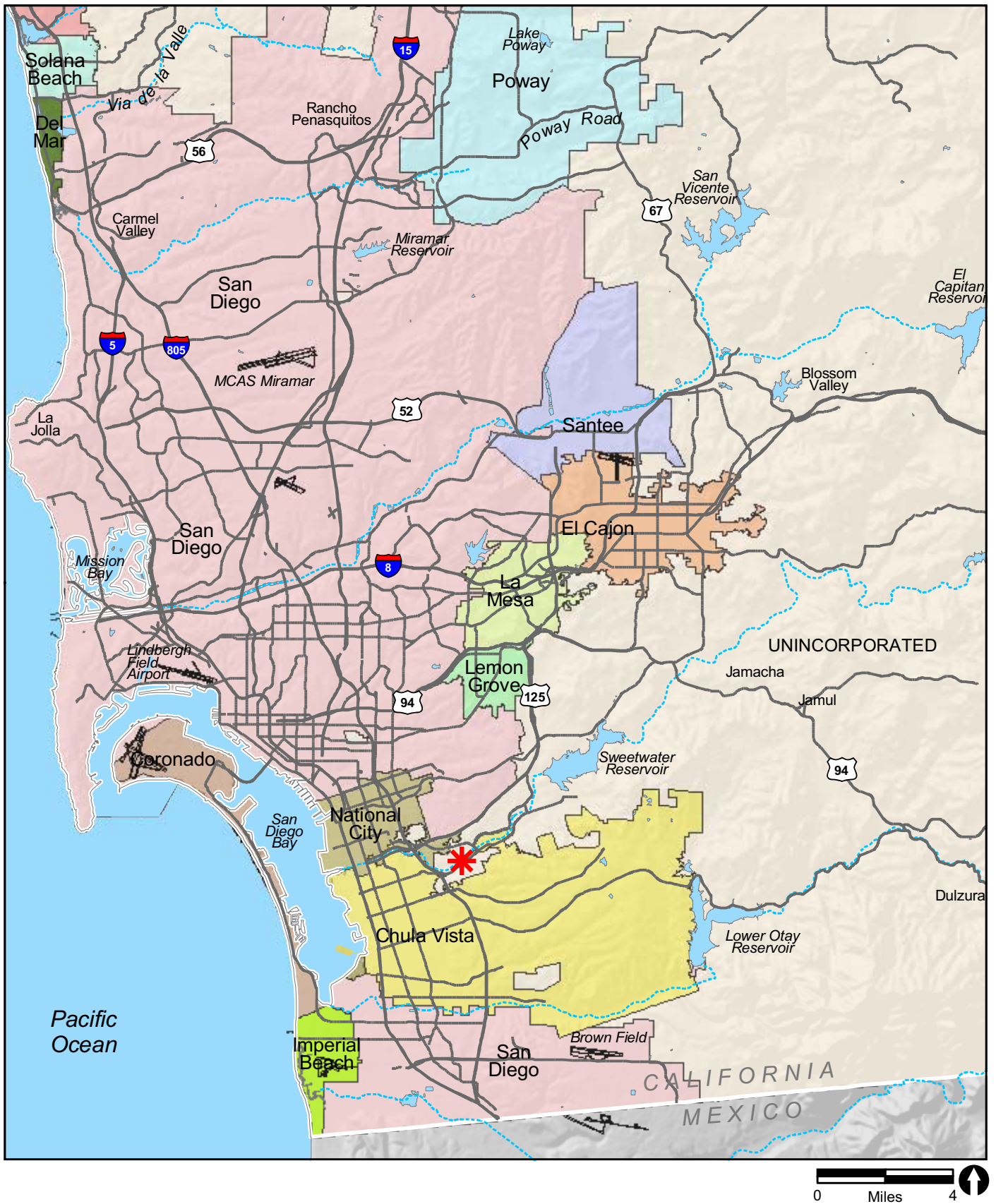
References

Zepeda-Herman, Carmen

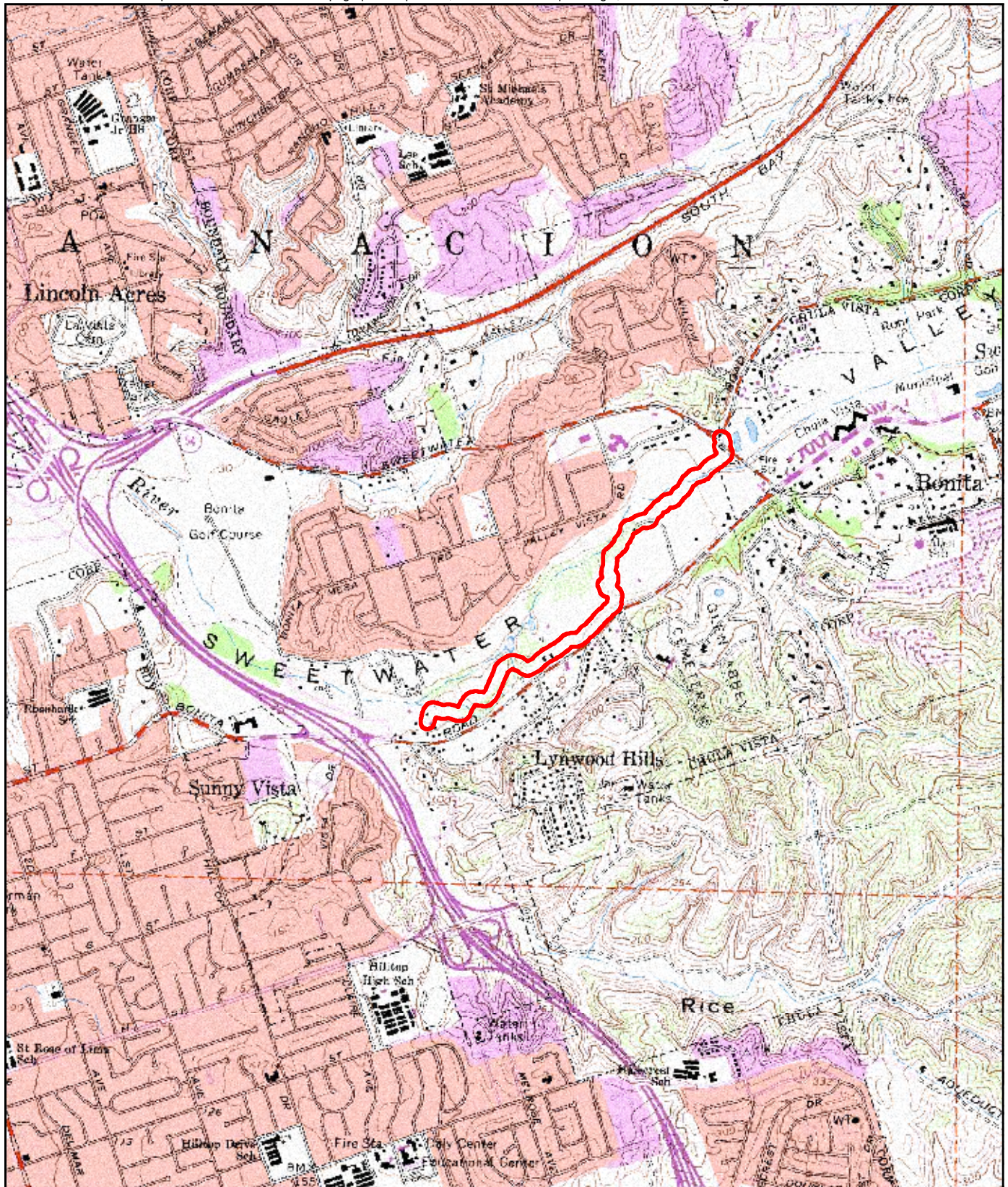
2008 Personal communication with Esther Daigneault, County of San Diego Department of Public Works, August 22.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT 1



 Project Location



 Project Boundary



- Project Boundary
- Recommended Trail
- Bridge

ATTACHMENT 2

**CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL RESOURCES INFORMATION SYSTEM
SITE FILES RECORD SEARCH**

Company: RECON
Company Representative: Carmen Zepeda-Herman
Date of Request: 8/15/2008
Date Processed: 8/15/2008
Project Identification: Sweetwater River Trail Project, (RECON Number 4782 ArchSurvey-1040)
Search Radius: 1 mile

Historical Resources: DSL **Date:** 8/15/2008

Trinomial (CA-SDI) and Primary (P-37) site maps have been reviewed. All sites within the project boundaries and the specified radius of the project area have been plotted. Copies of the site record forms have been included for all recorded sites.

Previous Archaeological Project Boundaries: DSL **Date:** 8/15/2008

Project boundary maps have been reviewed. National Archaeological Database (NADB) citations for reports within the project boundaries and within the specified radius of the project area have been included.

Historic Maps: DSL **Date:** 8/15/2008

The historic maps on file at the South Coastal Information Center have been reviewed, and copies have been included.

Historic Addresses: DSL **Date:** 8/15/2008

A map and database of historic addresses (formerly Geofinder) has been included.

HOURS: 2

COPIES: 226

RUSH: No

This is not an invoice. Please pay from the monthly billing statement

ATTACHMENT 3



PHOTOGRAPH 1
Existing Trail with Surrounding Vegetation



PHOTOGRAPH 2
Abandoned Vehicle near Trail



PHOTOGRAPH 3
Metal Bridge